

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 03288 161659Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 SS-15 A-01 ABF-01 AID-05
L-03 EPA-01 CEQ-01 SP-02 AGRE-00 EB-08 IO-13
ACDA-12 MCT-01 SNM-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 DODE-00 NRC-05 NSC-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 PER-01
/128 W

-----114349 180632Z /10

R 161614Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8256
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUITO 3288

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, TGEN, XM, EC
SUBJECT: SCIENCE ATTACHE PROGRAM AND GLOBAL ISSUES

REF: STATE 118666

1. ALL OF THE ISSUES LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF REFTEL WILL BE OF INCREASING IMPORTANCE TO U.S. RELATIONS WITH ECUADOR DURING THE NEXT FIVE-TEN YEARS, WITH THE SOLE EXCEPTION--WE HOPE--OF "TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF TERRORISM". NONETHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT ANY AND ALL CAN CONTINUE TO BE HANDLED MORE OR LESS AS AT PRESENT, I.E., BY AN E/C OFFICER WHOSE DESIGNATIONS INCLUDE THAT OF "SCIENCE OFFICER"; BY A POLITICAL OFFICER WHOSE DUTIES COVER SOME OF THE CITED TOPICS; AND BY THE AID AFFAIRS OFFICE (WHICH MAY WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS REVERT TO THE STATUS OF AN AID MISSION), WHICH ALSO HAS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SOME OF THE CITED TOPICS. WE SEE NO NEED FOR ASSIGNMENT OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL TO HANDLE ANY OF THESE MATTERS DURING THE NEXT DECADE.

2. AGGREGATE DATA ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC EXPENDITURES ON R&D IN
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ECUADOR ARE NOT AVAILABLE, BUT IN ANY CASE ARE SURELY VERY SMALL AND PROBABLY NEGLIGIBLE.

3. AMONG THE TOPICS CITED IN THE REF, THE ONE THAT MAY BECOME AN ESPECIALLY ACTIVE MATTER OF USG CONCERN DURING THE NEXT DECADE IS THAT OF "COMMUNICATIONS/SPACE TECHNOLOGY... WHICH CREATE FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES".

ECUADOR, ALONG WITH COLOMBIA AND OTHER EQUATORIAL COUNTRIES, HAS BEEN CLAIMING SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE GEO-STATIONARY ORBIT, AND ECUADOR SUCCEEDED EARLIER THIS YEAR IN BEING NAMED A MEMBER OF THE UN OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE. WE EXPECT ECUADOR TO PURSUE ITS CLAIMS TO JURISDICTION OVER THE SPACE ABOVE IT WITH THE SAME TENACITY THAT IT PURSUED ITS CLAIM TO A 200-MILE JURISDICTION OVER ITS ADJOINING SEAS; AND SINCE ECUADOR EVENTUALLY SCORED CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN PURSUING THE LATTER, IN THE FACE OF WHAT WAS ORIGINALLY WIDESPREAD AND FIRM INTERNATIONAL OPPOSITION, WE DO NOT DISCOUNT ECUADOR'S EFFORTS REGARDING ITS CLAIM TO OUTER SPACE. HOWEVER, SHOULD THIS BECOME A VERY ACTIVE ISSUE, WE BELIEVE IT COULD CONTINUE TO BE HANDLED BY OUR POLITICAL SECTION (UNLESS THERE ARE UNFORESEEN CUTS IN THE STAFFING OF THAT SECTION, OR A CONGLOMERATION OF UNFORESEEN POLITICAL ISSUES ARISE WHICH GREATLY ADD TO THE WORKLOAD OF THAT SECTION).
CORR

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Message Attributes

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